

flight 616 was held on the ground with mechanical difficulties and I missed a vote, which was vote No. 184 relative to the confirmation of Maurice Hicks as U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana. Had I been here, I would have voted in the affirmative.

FRIENDSHIP CONTRACT

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today I would like to share an amazing story of friendship—a friendship that has blossomed over the past 17 years between the cities of Aalen and Dewangen, Germany, and the town of Webster in my home State of South Dakota.

In 1986, a group of wrestlers from Dewangen toured South Dakota for 3 weeks. During that time, local South Dakotan communities held exhibition matches, providing both South Dakota and this group of wrestlers an opportunity to display their skills and learn from each other.

Before making their final departure, the wrestlers made their final stop in Webster, where they were welcomed wholeheartedly. Individual friendships between the wrestlers and members of the Webster community formed immediately. In the 17 years following their initial visit, members of the wrestling group from Aalen and Dewangen returned to Webster to renew their relationships with the Webster community.

In 1999, Webster Mayor Mike Grosek decided it was time to pay his friends in Dewangen a visit. During his visit, members of the Dewangen community talked excitedly about a possible friendship contract between the two cities, and within the last 4 years informal discussions led to an official declaration. On April 5, a group of 16 individuals from Webster were on hand for the historic signing ceremony in Dewangen, and it is my pleasure to announce that a similar ceremony will occur in Webster on May 31. I am confident that the friendship forged between them will endure for many years to come, and I wish to extend my congratulations to all involved in making these momentous occasions possible.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORD MOTOR COMPANY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Ford Motor Company on its 100th anniversary and its longstanding relationship with the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Ford has been an integral part of the Kentucky business community since 1913 when it began building Model T automobiles in a small shop on South Third Street in Louisville. From its modest beginnings in the Commonwealth, Ford rose to become a significant part of our economy. After opening additional plants in Louisville, Ford and its hard-working Kentucky employees produced more than 44,000 trucks for the U.S. Army during World War II.

Following the war, Ford continued to expand in Kentucky, initiating car production at the Louisville assembly plant on Fern Valley Road in 1955. In 1969, Ford built the Kentucky truck plant on Chamberlain Lane. The Kentucky truck plant would later utilize the world's most advanced computer-integrated system for manufacturing heavy truck frame rails. In September 2002, the Louisville assembly plant produced the five-millionth Ford Explorer.

Today, these two plants employ nearly 10,000 men and women in Kentucky who, in 2002, collectively earned more than \$660 million. In 2002, the two Ford facilities paid nearly \$50 million in State and local taxes. Ford and its Kentucky employees have made other important contributions to local community. Last year, they donated more than \$2.5 million to various Louisville community organizations and participated in the Adopt A Child and Sharing the Blessing programs.

As Ford Motor Company approaches its 100th anniversary on June 16, 2003, I am proud to take this opportunity to congratulate the company and its employees for their dedication to excellence. We look forward to the planned expansion of the Kentucky truck plant in Louisville and many more years of commitment to the people and Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of Ford Motor Company. On June 16, 1903, Henry Ford, one of Michigan's most famous sons, founded Ford Motor Company.

It is seldom in history that one person or company makes such a dramatic, lasting impact on society. Thomas Edison modernized the light bulb and changed the way we see the world. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone, and communication was changed forever. Henry Ford brought the automobile to the working family, and revolutionized manufacturing, transportation, and everyday American life.

It would certainly be difficult to overestimate the importance of Ford Motor Company on the American way of life. When it was founded, virtually no one owned an automobile. The personal mobility we take for granted today was unfathomable at the turn of the last century. But that was to change rapidly. Within 25 years of its founding, Ford manufactured more than 15 million Model T's, at a price that made them accessible to the working family. Today, there are over 200 million cars and light trucks on the road in the United States—more than 1 for every licensed driver.

The founding of this company has become a legend. With \$28,000 in cash, Ford and 11 associates founded what would become one of the world's largest corporations. The first moving assembly line was put into operation in Highland Park, MI, in 1913. This plant could produce a complete chassis in about an hour and a half—eight times faster than before.

At the same time, Ford began paying his workers \$5 per day—more than double the industry average wage. This high salary attracted workers to Michigan from around the country and the world. The influx of immigrants was so great that many have called the Ford River Rouge complex the Michigan-annex of Ellis Island.

Henry Ford was one of the first industrialists to hire African Americans. With the belief that hiring African Americans would help racial problems, he reached out to the Black community. By the onset of World War II, roughly half of Detroit's African-American workingmen were on Ford's payroll.

Ford Motor Company has a long history of producing memorable automobiles, from the Tin Lizzie to the Explorer. In 1954, Ford introduced the Thunderbird, a symbol of postwar optimism. The Ford Mustang, introduced in 1964, quickly became synonymous with the American free spirit and has remained a classic American car for almost 40 years. In 1991, the Ford Explorer defined the SUV segment of the market, and remains the best selling SUV in the world.

Ford's commitment to quality and innovation continues today. Ford, the world's second largest automaker, will have a hybrid—part electric, part gasoline powered—SUV available by 2004. Ford has also produced a cutting-edge hybrid fuel cell car, and is dedicated to bringing hydrogen-powered vehicles to the market in the future.

I am proud of Ford Motor Company's accomplishments over the last 100 years. I am glad Ford calls Michigan home, and I enthusiastically offer my support for the resolution commemorating Ford's centennial anniversary.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in Baltimore, MD. In October 1998, a group of 10 people attacked Leonard "Lynn" Vine, a 32-year-old native of East Baltimore, in front of his family's home because of his perceived sexual orientation. Vine was shot six times, yet survived the attack. The police investigated the attack as a hate crime, and 20-year-old Paul Bishop was charged with attempted murder.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing